



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov
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Northeast Skate Fishery SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE **Framework 2 Management Measures** *Effective date: September 29, 2014*

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service has approved and implemented the following measures in Framework Adjustment 2 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan:

Fishing Year 2014-2015 Skate Fishery Specifications

- Annual Catch Limit = 35,479 mt (-30 percent)
- Annual Catch Target = 26,609 mt
- Total Allowable Landings = 16,385 mt
- Skate wing fishery TAL = 10,896 mt (-30 percent)
- Skate bait fishery TAL = 5,489 mt (-30 percent)
- Status quo skate wing and bait possession limits (see table)

Skate Possession Limits (lb)		Skate Wings	Whole Skates	Whole Skate Bait w/ LOA
NE Multispecies, Monkfish, or Scallop DAS	May 1 - Aug 31	2,600	5,902	25,000
	Sept 1 - April 30	4,100	9,307	
NE Multispecies B DAS	May 1 - April 30	220	500	500
Non-DAS	May 1 - April 30	500	1,135	1,135

Revised Vessel and Dealer Reporting Requirements for Skates:

- May no longer report landings/purchases as “Unclassified” skates
- Must report landings/purchases from among the following species options:

Skate Bait Fishery

1. Little Skate (primary species)
2. Winter Skate
3. Little/Winter Skate Mix
4. Clearnose Skate
5. Rosette Skate
6. Thorny Skate*
7. Barndoor Skate*
8. Smooth Skate*

Skate Wing (Food) Fishery

1. Winter Skate (primary species)
2. Clearnose Skate
3. Barndoor Skate*
4. Thorny Skate*

** Prohibited Species*

- A skate species identification guide is enclosed. Laminated copies are available upon request from the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 or from your local Port Agent.
- For assistance with reporting please contact your local Port Agent or the dealer reporting help desk at (978) 281-9212 or reporting.ne@noaa.gov.
- For more information on this action and other skate regulations please refer to:

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/skate/index.html>

This bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

Northeast Skate ID Guide

PROHIBITED SPECIES

THORNY SKATE (*Amblyraja radiata*)



Prohibited throughout the NE Region

VTR Code: SKTHOR (whole)
SKTHORW (wings)

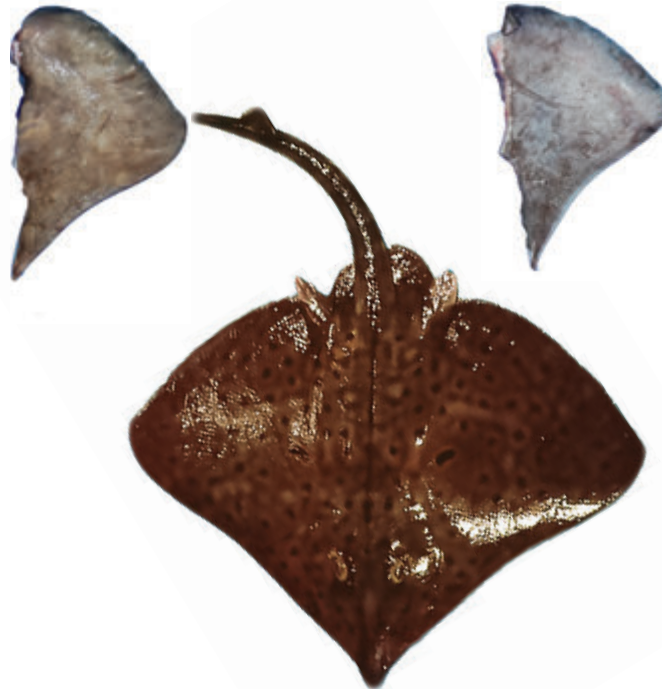
- Other Names: Mud Skate, Starry Skate
- Range: Most common in the Gulf of Maine
- Depth: Most common 40 - 165 fathoms
- Max Length: 41 in (104 cm)

Features:

- Large thorns along back and shoulders
- Brown/Grayish body surface
- Tail shorter than body
- Underside of wings are white
- No spots on wings

PROHIBITED SPECIES

BARNDOR SKATE (*Dipturus laevis*)



Prohibited throughout the NE Region

VTR Code: SKBARN (whole)
SKBARNW (wings)

- Range: Most common on southern Georges Bank and southern New England
- Depth: Most common 35-80 fathoms
- Max Length: 60 in (152 cm)

Features:

- Very pointed snout
- Reddish brown body surface
- Small dark spots covering body
- No spines on wings
- Underside of wings are gray

PROHIBITED SPECIES

SMOOTH SKATE (*Malacoraja senta*)



Prohibited in the Gulf of Maine

VTR Code: SKSM

- Other Names: Prickly Skate, Smooth Tailed Skate
- Range: Most common in the Gulf of Maine
- Depth: Most common 55-250 fathoms
- Max Length: 26 in (64 cm)

Features:

- Pointed snout
- No hard spines on wings
- Pale brown coloration
- 2 rows of small spines along the tail

Permitted Species



LITTLE SKATE (*Leucoraja erinacea*)

VTR Code: SKL

- Other names: Summer Skate, Common Skate
- Primary target of the bait fishery
- Range: Most common on Georges Bank and southern New England
- Depths: Most common < 70 fathoms
- Max length: 22 in (55 cm)

Features:

- Rounded disk
- Small dark spots on body surface
- Males (14-20 in) claspers extend well beyond back edge of disk
- Females (14-20 in) patches of spines located on both sides of anus



WINTER SKATE (*Leucoraja ocellata*)

VTR Code: SKWIN (whole)

SKWINW (wings)

- Other names: Big Skate, Spotted Skate, Eyed Skate
- Primary target of the wing fishery
- Range: Most common on Georges Bank and southern New England
- Depth: Most common < 60 fathoms
- Max Length: 46 in (117 cm)

Features:

- Underside of wings are white
- Small dark spots on body surface/wings
- Males (14-20 in) claspers barely reach edge of posterior disk
- Females (14-20 in) no rough patch on sides of vent



ROSETTE SKATE (*Leucoraja garmani*)

VTR Code: SKROSE

- Other names: Leopard Skate, Freckled Skate
- Range: Most common in deep water in the Mid-Atlantic
- Depth: Most common > 40 fathoms
- Max Length: 16 in (41 cm)

Features:

- Dark rosettes (6 or more dark spots surrounding a central point) on back
- Rows of spines along back and tail
- Tail rather long



CLEARNOSE SKATE (*Raja eglanteria*)

VTR Code: SKCL (whole)

SKCLW (wings)

- Other names: Brier Skate
- Range: Most common nearshore in the Mid-Atlantic
- Depths: Most common < 20 fathoms
- Max Length: 37 in (94cm)

Features:

- Bars and spots on top surface
- One line of thorns that run down the mid-line of back
- Large clear space on each side of snout
- Defined space between two dorsal fins on tail